

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141735  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:AMB. LOW:OMS  
APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON  
S/S-O:SSTEINER

-----180022Z 123848 /14

O R 172339Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, XF

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THE OAU SUMMIT

REF: LONDON 10057

1. WHILE WE AGREE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT LIBREVILLE  
MEETING MIGHT GRANT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO PATRIOTIC  
FRONT, ALL THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE SEEN POINTS TO LESSENING  
OF CHANCES OF SUCH ACTION. NOT ONLY WAS MOMENTUM  
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FOR EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION SLOWED BY LOME CONFERENCE BUT  
MAPUTO CONFERENCE APPEARED TO STRENGTHEN THIS TREND.  
AWAY FROM EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION. ROLE OF IVORY COAST  
AND OTHER MODERATES IN OPPOSITION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT  
RECOGNITION WAS EVEN BOLDER THAN AT LOME. WE CAN  
UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH HAD A DIFFICULT TIME AT THE  
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT

BECAUSE OF THE MILITANCY OF FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES.  
OAU CONFERENCE WOULD BRING IN FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP  
AND LIBERIANS WHO APPEAR STRONGLY OPPOSED TO FRONT LINE  
BACKING OF PATRIOTIC FRONT.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH GRAHAM'S DISTINCTION  
BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
FIGHTING FORCES AS OPPOSED TO ITS ROLE IN A POLITICAL  
SETTLEMENT. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO ENGAGE  
IN EVEN A LOW KEY EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE OAU ACTION IN THIS  
MATTER SINCE WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY AND WE FEEL THAT THE  
RISK OF DAMAGE TO THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD  
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECOME AWARE OF OUR EFFORTS IS  
GREATER THAN THE BENEFITS WHICH MIGHT BE OBTAINED.  
FURTHERMORE WE BELIEVE BRITISH THEMSELVES SHOULD USE  
EXTREME CAUTION IN THEIR EFFORTS AND SHOULD PROBABLY  
CONFINE THEM TO SOUNDINGS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF  
EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, SUMMIT MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE141735  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AMB. LOW:OMS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** RHODESIA: PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THE OAU SUMMIT  
**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, UK, XF, OAU  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b776827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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